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Carter says CIA chief is qualified, calls release of staff memo mistake

Associated Press

PLAINS, Ga.—Jimmy Carter said yesterday that one of his aides had made a "serious mistake" in disclosing that a staff memorandum listed CIA Director George Bush as an example of Republican officeholders who got their jobs after failing in elections.

The Democratic presidential nominee told a news conference that he had been impressed by the intelligence briefings Bush had given him and said, "I would not include George Bush among those who were appointed without qualifications."

The staff memo was given to a reporter in Atlanta on Wednesday, one day before Bush arrived in Plains for the second in a series of discussions with Carter on intelligence matters. The memo was supplied by Jody Po-

well, Carter's press secretary, whom Carter did not mention by name in his remarks.

Bush, after being defeated in a Texas election for the U. S. Senate, was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon as ambassador to the United Nations in 1971 and later as envoy to China. Ford appointed him to the CIA post.

Carter also said yesterday that he agreed with Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, his running mate, that FBI Director Clarence Kelley had failed to establish control over the bureau.

He noted that Kelley, after swearing more than once to congressional committees that his agents had ceased all illegal burglaries, now acknowledged that that was not the case and that subordinates had "lied to him."

Referring to Kelley, Carter said he

saw no way to prevent government officials from making mistakes, "but to make the same mistake twice, it's almost unforgivable."

The former Georgia governor spoke to newsmen as he said good-by to California Gov. Jerry Brown, who departed after a two-day visit to Carter's hometown.

Brown, who opposed Carter in several primaries late in the campaign, said Carter had made historic progress in reconciling all factions of the Democratic Party.

Carter, in turn, promised Brown veto power over the selection of a California presidential campaign coordinator, and said he would ask Brown to accompany him on campaign trips outside California.